With the existing scale of allocations, Central Issue Prices for the BPL and AAY category, number of BPL and AAY families, and economic cost of FCI, annual subsidy during 2009-10 is estimated as approximately Rs.37,010 crores.

However, for the next year, the annual subsidy would depend on changes in the component factors of economic cost of food grains, Central Issue Prices, scale of Issue, number of BPL families to be covered, etc.

Government has taken a series of measures to streamline TPDS to check diversion of food grains and ensure delivery of food grains to identified BPL families by:

(i) improving functioning of TPDS through continuous review of lists of BPL and AAY families, door step delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops, timely availability of foodgrains at fair price shops and training of staff as well as vigilance committee members;

(ii) ensuring greater transparency in functioning of TPDS through display of lists of BPL and AAY families at fair price shops, display of allocated quantities on web sites, adoption and implementation of revised Citizens' Charter, monthly certification of delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops and their distribution to ration card holders, and taking up publicity-cum-awareness campaign;

(iii) improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and strict penal action against those involved in malpractices, including action against staff responsible for issuing ineligible ration cards and persons found in possession of such ration cards;

(iv) introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels, smart-card-based delivery of essential commodities, use of global positioning system on vehicles transporting TPDS commodities, bar coding of ration cards, etc. and

(v) getting functioning of TPDS periodically evaluated.

Cash for food programme

180. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was proposed to end the public distribution system and provide cash for food pilot project;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is still awaiting Central go ahead for project under cash for food programme;

(c) if so, whether Government had asked Union Territory of Delhi to start this project in one district and commitment was made to assess beneficiaries after implementation;

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for delay in this project and by when it is likely to start; and

(e) by when the scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) There was no proposal before the Government to end the Public Distribution System by providing case for food. However, State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi submitted proposals to approve a scheme on pilot basis in five districts – Lakhimpur Kheri and Hardoi in Uttar Pradesh, Panchkula and Jhajjar in Haryana and Central district in Delhi for direct disbursement of food subsidy in cash to BPL families instead of distribution of foodgrains to them under TPDS. Based on those proposals, a draft scheme has been prepared to test the feasibility of this alternative mode of transfer of food subsidy to BPL/AAY beneficiaries under the TPDS. The draft scheme is under examination.

Use of mobil oil to enhance size and shining of pulses

†181. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobil oil and other toxicants are being used by black marketers to enhance the size and shining of pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified such black marketers and punished them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Foodgrain quota for Kerala

182. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foodgrain quota for Kerala was cut for the last few months thereby jeopardizing the statutory rationing system in the State;

(b) if so, the quota demanded by the State Government, actually allocated the Central Government and off take by the State Government during the year 2008 and 2009, month-wise so far;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.